

NEW DIRECTOR AT THE ASPR

Austrian diplomat Moritz Ehrmann is appointed the new director of the peace centre in Schlaining as of July 1st

Stadtschlaining, June 30th 2021 - The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) is pleased to announce that Moritz Ehrmann is taking on the leadership of the centre beginning on the first of July 2021. Ehrmann brings to the ASPR his extensive experience from varied contexts, including Iraq, Colombia, Jordan, Ukraine, and Yemen, through his previous work with the International Committee of the Red Cross and as an Austrian diplomat.

Moritz Ehrmann pays tribute to the work of his predecessor Gudrun Kramer: "In Austria, the ASPR has once again become the largest and most important institute in the field of peace and conflict resolution. I find a well-positioned institute that is ready to take the next step and continue to gain relevance beyond its borders. Over the next few years, I would like to focus on steady, targeted and managed growth and deepen and broaden collaborations with national and international partners."

Kramer and Ehrmann have worked closely together over the past months to ensure a successful transition. "I am convinced that with Moritz Ehrmann, the right person is taking over the leadership at the right time", says Kramer. "With the renovation of Schlaining Castle soon to be completed, and with the activities of the institute on a path of development and growth, the ASPR is on track to reach its renewed potential, while remaining grounded in its nearly 40 years of experience."

Ehrmann began his career with the Austrian foreign service in 2008, with diplomatic postings to the Holy

See, to the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, and to the Middle East and North Africa desk. From 2012 – 2015 he took a leave of absence from the Austrian MFA, to become a field delegate for the ICRC in Colombia, Jordan, and Iraq, and then Deputy Head of the Sub-delegation for the Iraqi provinces of Kirkuk, Niniva, and Salahadin. He returned to the Austrian MFA to serve on the Task Force of the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE, including as head of Programme on Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism in 2017 and head of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership Programme in 2016. During his years abroad, he has honed his language skills as well as his mediation and dialogue skills, and in addition to his native German, is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

Over the past several years, since departing from the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship Taskforce, Ehrmann has focused on engagements in informal international peace mediation, having fostered such an engagement in Ukraine as part of Austria's OSCE Chairmanship activities. Joining the ASPR and taking on the position of director for the next years was almost a natural step.

The Board of the ASPR, and the diverse team based in Schlaining, Vienna, and internationally, warmly welcome Ehrmann and look forward to a continued collaborative development of the ASPR.

Further Information www.aspr.ac.at

Public Relation:

Elke Marksteiner, marksteiner@aspr.ac.at